

Chairman Genachowski and whomever this may concern at the FCC,

First off thanks again for reclassifying broadband under Title II of the Telecommunications Act as a telecommunications service. Broadband service should never have been redefined an information service by the Bush Administration's FCC when it was. Broadband has always been a telecommunications service and was defined as such throughout the Clinton Gore Administration. The decision to reclassify it back as a telecommunications service means the FCC is simply restoring its statutory legal authority to regulate broadband service for the purposes of protecting consumers online, mandating competition and affordability.

The Open Internet has enabled commerce, telecommunication, and the transmission of free flow of information over the Web. It is a tool that can be used for educational empowerment. Using the Open Internet groups like Health Care for America Now.org and MoveOn.org were able to fundraise, rally and mobilize grassroots support online for health insurance reform. Using the power of the Open Internet supporters of the Obama for America campaign helped elect our current President Barack Obama. Obama for America has now been succeeded by Organizing for America a group begun by President Obama to develop support for his agenda of positive, progressive change.

Now Americans for Financial Reform, Americans for Fairness in Lending and a number of other groups are using the Open Internet again to fundraise for campaigns calling on Congress to pass effective financial reforms. While the status quo on the Internet when it comes to providing high speed Internet service is inadequate -- we really need The National Broadband Plan's pro competitive policies implemented to encourage more competition and affordable prices in the broadband Internet access market. We need universal and open access policies for the Internet implemented. Without the Open Internet public dissent could be silenced online and corporate censorship could occur on the Web.

The Open Internet now is even being used to Save The Internet. I urge the FCC to complete the reclassification process asap! Keep the Internet open for the public by disallowing corporate gatekeepers. Remember, don't listen to Microsoft or Micro\$oft. This is the company that tried to bend the Web to its will by forcing Netscape out of the browser business and dominating the web browser market. Don't listen to the big cable and telecom companies proclaiming Net Neutrality is a solution in search of a problem or allow Americans for Prosperity a (fake citizen grassroots group lobbying on behalf of the telecoms) to perpetuate the lie that Net Neutrality is a government takeover of the Internet which is patently and absurdly false. Instead listen to the public interest groups and consumer rights groups like Free Press.Net, Consumers Union.org, etc. Even the ultraconservative right-wing Christian Coalition of America a religiously extremist group that is intolerant of gay rights etc joined The Save The Internet Coalition in the lead-up to the 2008 Presidential election that saw our current President elected to succeed George W. Bush.

Network Neutrality has always been part of telecommunications law and must remain so for the benefit of consumers. Even Congress has directed the FCC to protect the Open Internet. With the exception of a few holdouts in Congress proposing legislation to kill Net Neutrality there is strong support from members of Congress in both chambers determined to represent the public interest for the FCC to do so. Senators Byron Dorgan, John Kerry, even Republican Olympia Snow apparently (was surprised to hear at a Senate subcommittee hearing on The National Broadband Plan a few weeks ago that she supports Net Neutrality, and has said that while the FCC should for now move forward she would like to see legislation passed to address this) etc.

The fact is there is strong bipartisan consensus on the need for Network Neutrality rules to be enacted and enforced. As the FCC protects broadband users using its authority to regulate telephone lines please continue to use this authority to protect dial-up users as well. Of course the goal is to enact policies to make it more affordable for more people to leave dead-end dial-up connections for high speed Internet access services. Expanding deployment and adoption of high speed Internet access are essential while maintaining the openness of the Internet. Net Neutrality rules of nondiscrimination mandating Internet Service Providers practice reasonable network management are essential for protecting users online.

Below is the text of an article detailing the need to preserve the Open Internet and protect Network Neutrality from cable company ISPs wanting to stifle competition from online TV providers -- especially free TV sources. Schemes like Comcast's TV Everywhere are anti competitive and anti consumer. They want to subsidize their expensive digital cable TV services with their Internet service to prevent people from cutting the cord to switch to cheaper or free sources of online TV. This article details how the Paid Television market may be threatened by Apple's iTunes Store/Apple TV model that includes iPod, iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad:

Last fall, Apple Inc.'s head of Internet services began making the Hollywood rounds with a proposal to launch a subscription television service that would offer a package of broadcast shows for \$10 a month.

The service was intended as a dazzling new entertainment feature to spark sales of Apple's soon-to-be-launched iPad. But the plan fizzled when several of the biggest studios rejected the concept.

They also dismissed Apple's comeback pitch: to charge 99 cents per TV episode. Apple's plan conjured a nightmare scenario for the TV industry, which worried it would suffer the same dismal fate as the music business. Apple's iTunes service, after all, had created a market for 99-cent single downloads, helping cripple the sale of \$12 music CDs.

Some feared that Apple's proposition would wreak the same havoc upon the average \$70-a-month cable-TV customer. That's not to say that Apple has dropped its ambitions in television. At the annual cable convention under way in Los Angeles last week, Brian Roberts, the chief executive of Comcast Corp., the nation's largest cable company, predicted a robust future for watching TV shows on the iPad. Just not in the way Apple envisioned.

The cable industry and the studios are working to hold Apple at bay, racing to come up with an alternative that will keep their business intact. As consumers increasingly expect to watch TV on their computers and portable devices, the future of online television is up for grabs.

One solution: TV Everywhere, which is intended to address changing viewer habits while preserving the profitable status quo for program producers and the networks that carry the shows.

The idea, presented by Time Warner Inc. CEO Jeff Bewkes at last year's cable-TV industry trade show, was straightforward. Consumer could watch TV shows free, any time and on any device, as long as they were already paying customers.

But in the year since Bewkes introduced TV Everywhere, his grand plan has hit resistance, even from within his own industry. Three of the most powerful players in cable—Disney, NBC and Fox parent News Corp. —have championed another alternative, Hulu, and a host of other smaller networks and operators have yet to sign on.

Speaking Tuesday before thousands of cable executives, Roberts acknowledged that acceptance of TV Everywhere — which Comcast supports — has been slow. He blamed technology that makes the authentication process cumbersome and promised it would improve. "We have made real progress," Roberts said. "Would I like it to be faster and ubiquitous? Sure."

TV Everywhere has taken tentative steps, with early tests by cable, satellite and telecommunications companies offering a smattering of programming from nearly 30 networks, including powerhouses like HBO and Fox News and struggling channels like Epix.

Bewkes sees substantial support for the idea. "Just about all of the distribution companies . . . have endorsed it or implemented it in tests or actual launches," Bewkes said, calling it a "huge change" since last year. The initiative is important to Bewkes because his company, Time Warner, owns popular cable channels — including TNT, TBS, CNN, Cartoon Network and HBO — that customers already pay to receive.

Last summer, Comcast signed on to Bewkes' vision. At the time, Comcast was determined not to let free services, such as the fast-growing Hulu, get more traction. But for now, the initiative might more

aptly be described as TV Somewhere. Time Warner Cable, for instance, is conducting limited trials with a total of 6,000 subscribers in New York City, Syracuse and Columbus, Ohio. Satellite-TV operator Dish Network plans to test TV Everywhere as early as this summer.

Comcast is by far the most aggressive, having rolled out an early version of TV Everywhere ?which it brands Fancast Xfinity TV ? to all of its 16 million broadband Internet subscribers last December.

While the cable industry sees TV Everywhere as a way to offer subscribers broad access to programming online, others see a far more sinister motivation: snuffing out free online TV.

Their fear is that the cable industry is determined to maintain its control as television gatekeeper, locking out competition.

?TV Everywhere is just a tactic to keep people paying,? said Mike Vorhaus, president of Magid Advisors, a media consulting firm. ?The cable companies want more customers. They want to build a wall and penalize us if we don?t pay.?

But a wall that keeps out nonpaying viewers is exactly what Bewkes wants. And he thinks the threat of cord-cutting is pretty much bluster in a country where 93 percent of households pay to get TV.

?The viewing of television is going up, not down. More people are paying for it and watching it, in terms of absolute millions of people,? Bewkes said. ?What we?re saying now is, let?s take that very powerful incoming tide of TV and put it online.?